

year, not \$800,000 and \$900,000 a year. I hope the President, as he has said to Democrats throughout the last 2 months about the spirit of bipartisanship and asking us to come down and meet with him at the White House, that he would now practice bipartisanship and, beyond the spirit of bipartisanship, work with us for a fair tax cut and one that is based on real surpluses.

□ 1415

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 6 p.m. today.

AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS TO CARRY OUT PART B OF TITLE I OF ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT RELATING TO STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RE- SERVE

Mr. BASS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 724) to authorize appropriations to carry out part B of title I of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, relating to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 724

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE.

Section 166 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6246) is amended—

- (1) by striking “for fiscal year 2000”; and
- (2) by striking “, to remain available only through March 31, 2000”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BASS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include therein extraneous material on H.R. 724.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

Mr. BASS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 724 makes a technical correction to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act that is necessary for Congress to authorize future appropriations for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. It contains a date correction that was incorrectly referenced when EPCA was reauthorized during the 106th Congress. In the last EPCA reauthorization, Congress instructed the Department of Energy to continue operating the Strategic Petroleum Reserve through September 30, 2003. However, we failed to make a conforming date change to a related section of the act. This was a technical error and H.R. 724 corrects this situation.

EPCA authorizes the Department of Energy to operate the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The SPR contains approximately 541 million barrels of oil stored along the Gulf Coast. It costs about \$165 million a year to operate the Reserve. As a practical matter, last year's Interior appropriations bill appropriated funds to operate the SPR through fiscal year 2001. Given that more than half of our demand for oil is met through imports, the importance of a Strategic Petroleum Reserve to protect against supply disruptions is now greater than ever. The majority of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve was reauthorized through fiscal year 2003 during the 106th Congress.

Section 166 of EPCA provides authorization for, quote, such sums as may be necessary, end of quote, to be appropriated for operation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Due to a technical error in the most recent EPCA reauthorization, section 166 provides authorization for appropriations only through March 31, 2000, the end of last year. In contrast, section 191 of EPCA provides the authority for the Department of Energy to operate the Strategic Petroleum Reserve through September 30, 2003.

H.R. 724 will eliminate the March 31, 2000 limitation on appropriations for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, allowing future appropriations for the reserve. With this change and pursuant to section 191 of EPCA, the Reserve would not have to be reauthorized again until September 30, 2003.

The correction in H.R. 724 also simplifies future reauthorizations of EPCA by placing the effective date in one section, that is section 191, as opposed to two sections. Maintaining a strong Strategic Petroleum Reserve is an important part of our Nation's energy security. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 724 since it is a necessary technical correction to ensure the continued authorization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of H.R. 724, a bill that

makes a needed technical correction to H.R. 2884, legislation which Congress enacted last year to reauthorize the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. It is particularly important that EPCA be extended at this point because it provides for the operation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, a frontline protection against an interruption in our Nation's energy supplies.

H.R. 724 ensures that the authorization for appropriations for the SPR is extended through September 2003. This measure conforms with the extension of the Department of Energy's authority to operate the SPR made by last year's legislation, and in so doing corrects a drafting oversight.

I am pleased to support the passage of H.R. 724 and urge its approval by the House.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BASS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 724.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BASS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

AMENDING CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY ACT TO PROVIDE THAT LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES ARE CONSUMER PRODUCTS SUB- JECT TO SUCH ACT

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 727) to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to provide that low-speed electric bicycles are consumer products subject to such Act.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 727

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY ACT.

The Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2051 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES

“SEC. 38. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, low-speed electric bicycles are consumer products within the meaning of section 3(a)(1) and shall be subject to the Commission regulations published at section 1500.18(a)(12) and part 1512 of title 16, Code of Federal Regulations.

“(b) For the purpose of this section, the term ‘low-speed electric bicycle’ means a